

## **P-9: Hispanic/Latino Groups and Tobacco in Washington**

**Venue:** Statewide

**Goal:** Reducing Health Disparities

**Sponsoring Organizations:** Washington Association of Community & Migrant Health Centers and various partners

**Abstract:** Hispanic/Latino individuals (of any race) make up about 7.5% of the Washington population, and are located in both Eastern and Western Washington. Current smoking among Hispanics is approximately 24.2% (26.9% for males and 21.3% for females) for 1998-2000 combined. This is in comparison to the state rate of 20.7% for 2000 (21.7% for males and 19.7% for females). Smokeless tobacco use is similar to the state. Youth smoking and smokeless tobacco use among Hispanics is similar to the state average for all grade groups. Maternal smoking during pregnancy is much lower than the state average, and has been consistent for the past several years. Low-accultured Hispanic farmworker populations may be quite mobile, with poor access to healthcare and educational systems.

**Recommendations:** DOH should follow recommendations made by the Cross-Cultural Workgroup on Tobacco, as part of a Strategic Plan for Reducing Disparities. Continued engagement of Hispanic/Latino community leaders will improve tobacco control capacity and culturally competent program delivery among Hispanic communities in Washington.

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